

Approved For Release 1999/07/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R00220001-6

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A9a

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 3 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Shortage of Gasoline and Oil Supplies in Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

NO. OF PAGES

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

25X1A2g

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Stocks of gasoline and diesel oil held in Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern on 1 October 1948 were:

Gasoline	1,300,000 kg. (octane 56 and 57)
Diesel oil	7,000,000 kg.

This compares with 2,700,000 kg of gasoline and 5,200,000 kg of oil held on 1 April 1948. This reduction of gasoline stocks held by the Land is brought about by reduced supplies and not by an increase in consumption.

Comment: Source believes that stocks of fuel are decreasing because of growing outside demands for the gasoline produced in the Soviet Zone. Greater quantities are not being taken from the Zone, ostensibly as reparations to Poland, but it is widely believed that these supplies are merely being stored by the Soviets in Eastern Europe.)

2. Stocks of both motor and machine oil are extremely low. Thus the firm responsible for the sale of 6 percent of the total stock of oil held in Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern had on 1 October 1948 a total of only 75 tons of oil (80,000 liters), supplied by the Trieb und Schmierstoff Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH. It was expected that the 75 tons would be exhausted by the first two weeks of October.

3. The situation with regard to the supply of oil for lubrication purposes has been aggravated by the poor condition of practically all internal combustion engines in the Land. These engines have never been properly maintained, because material and labor is not available for such purposes; thus the engines use far more oil than would normally be the case. Oil was usually supplied from Eastern Europe; the Derunaph supply of 20 September 1948, for example, was reputed to be from Rumania, although the Germans themselves believed it to be of Austrian origin. Comments: An exception to the general rule that oil is received from Eastern Europe recently occurred when a Dutch ship brought 300,000 liters of transformer oil from the Netherlands to Rostock on 9 October 1948. This deal had reportedly been arranged by the DMK on an exchange basis, and it was expected that a further shipment of 500,000 liters would arrive in the near future.) Fresh supplies of lubricants arrive at irregular intervals and in such small quantities that they are of little help.

CLASSIFICATION

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Date: 10 MAY 1978 By: OLC

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